

From: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 3/21/2012 1:56:48 PM
To: "Sheela Tobben" <STobben@opisnet.com>
CC: "Terri-A White" <White.Terri-A@epamail.epa.gov>
Subject: Responses to your questions on Dimock

Sheela -- Sorry again (3rd time) for the delay. I hope this clarifies some things for you.

Question: How did EPA first become involved in sampling etc. at Dimock?

Answer: EPA is in the Dimock community sampling and providing water as a direct result of requests from Dimock residents and based on monitoring data, developed largely by Cabot, that led us to conclude that there were health concerns that required action. Our actions in Dimock reflect our long-standing responsibility under federal environmental laws to address threats to public health, and are guided entirely by science and the law. The Dimock investigation is focused solely on water quality in residential wells.

Question: I understand from EPA documents both at the state level and also on the federal level that investigations into water contamination at Dimock potentially caused by Cabot's drilling date back to 2009. Is this accurate?

Answer: The state's Nov. 4, 2009 Consent Order and Agreement with Cabot indicates that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection began investigating the impact of Cabot's drilling activities in the Dimock area in January 2009.

Question: And also there was some \$4 million in settlement which was negotiated by the EPA to residents dating back to 2010, is this also accurate? (this I got from an online article)

Answer: No, there was no such settlement negotiated by EPA. The state did modify its Nov. 4, 2009 Consent Order and Agreement with Cabot in December 2010.

Roy Seneca
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From: Sheela Tobben <STobben@opisnet.com>
To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/20/2012 01:50 PM
Subject: RE: Please email us your questions on Dimock

Hi Roy,

I understand from EPA documents both at the state level and also on the federal level that investigations into water contamination at Dimock potentially caused by Cabot's drilling date back to 2009. Is this accurate?

And also there was some \$4 million in settlement which was negotiated by the EPA to residents dating back to 2010, is this also accurate? (this I got from an online article)

Cheers,

Sheela

From: Roy Seneca [mailto:Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 6:36 PM
To: Sheela Tobben
Cc: Terri-A White
Subject: RE: Please email us your questions on Dimock

Sheela -- Sorry for the delay in getting back to you:

Question: Was there a medical issue that was brought to your attention from contaminated water?

Answer: EPA was not aware of any medical issue. However, EPA took action in January to ensure delivery of temporary water supplies to four homes where available data indicated that residents were consuming well water that contained levels of contaminations that posed a health concern. EPA's decided to conduct sampling because of the request of residents and because the sampling data we had was incomplete and of uncertain quality.

Question: Which specific drilling activity at Dimock of Cabot's was the EPA zoning in on? Location of the gas drilling/producing facility? Is this operation still proceeding or has it been suspended?

Answer: Our focus is first and foremost on the drinking water quality of residents.

Question: So far has the EPA fined Cabot at all?

Answer: EPA has not taken any enforcement action against Cabot related to activities near Dimock.

When does your first water sampling date back to?

Answer: Our sampling effort began the week of January 23rd and continued for three and half weeks through Feb. 15th

Since then how many tests have you conducted?

Answer: Overall, we have sampled wells for 61 homes to date.

Question: I do recall that the January 19 statement indicated that there was a link, but now it appears that your most recent tests show that the water supply is fine, that it does not have any contamination.

Answer: EPA has not done any detailed review to determine the cause. Our focus is first and foremost on the drinking water quality of residents. EPA is not drawing any conclusions at this time.

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-----Sheela Tobben <STobben@opisnet.com> wrote: -----

To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Sheela Tobben <STobben@opisnet.com>
Date: 03/19/2012 03:11PM
Cc: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: RE: Please email us your questions on Dimock
Hi Roy,

No problem at all.

Essentially, I am trying to get some background on when these tests began and why. I only started covering this around

January. So I am missing some pieces, which are critical to me writing up the story.

Was there a medical issue that was brought to your attention from contaminated water?

Which specific drilling activity at Dimock of Cabot's was the EPA zoning in on? Location of the gas drilling/producing facility? Is this operation still proceeding or has it been suspended?

So far has the EPA fined Cabot at all ?

When does your first water sampling date back to?

Since then how many tests have you conducted?

I do recall that the January 19 statement indicated that there was a link, but now it appears that your most recent tests show that the water supply is fine, that it does not have any contamination.

Your prompt response would be greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

Sheela Tobben

Reporter

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From: Roy Seneca [<mailto:Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov>]

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 2:51 PM

To: Sheela Tobben

Cc: Terri-A White

Subject: Please email us your questions on Dimock

Sheela -- I got your voice message. We are handling all questions regarding Dimock via email. Please email your questions to me and Terri White and we will try to get back to you as soon as possible. Thanks

Roy Seneca

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